

LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1948

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, MB., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

Miss D.R. Plascott.

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor & Housing Designated Officer:

F.J.EAST, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.I.

Holds Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

Telephone - Ledbury 5.

Urban Council Offices,
Church Street,
Ledbury.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District during the year 1948. The Report is furnished under Article 17 (4) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and in accordance with Circular 3/49 of the Ministry of Health. It contains no matter of report inserted on the specific instructions of the Council, but deals generally with the health of the inhabitants and matters having bearing upon health.

The year was characterised by the relative freedom of the inhabitants from infectious disease, by a satisfactory birth rate and a small natural increase of population.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support and the courtesy which the Council has given me throughout the year in the discharge of my duties.

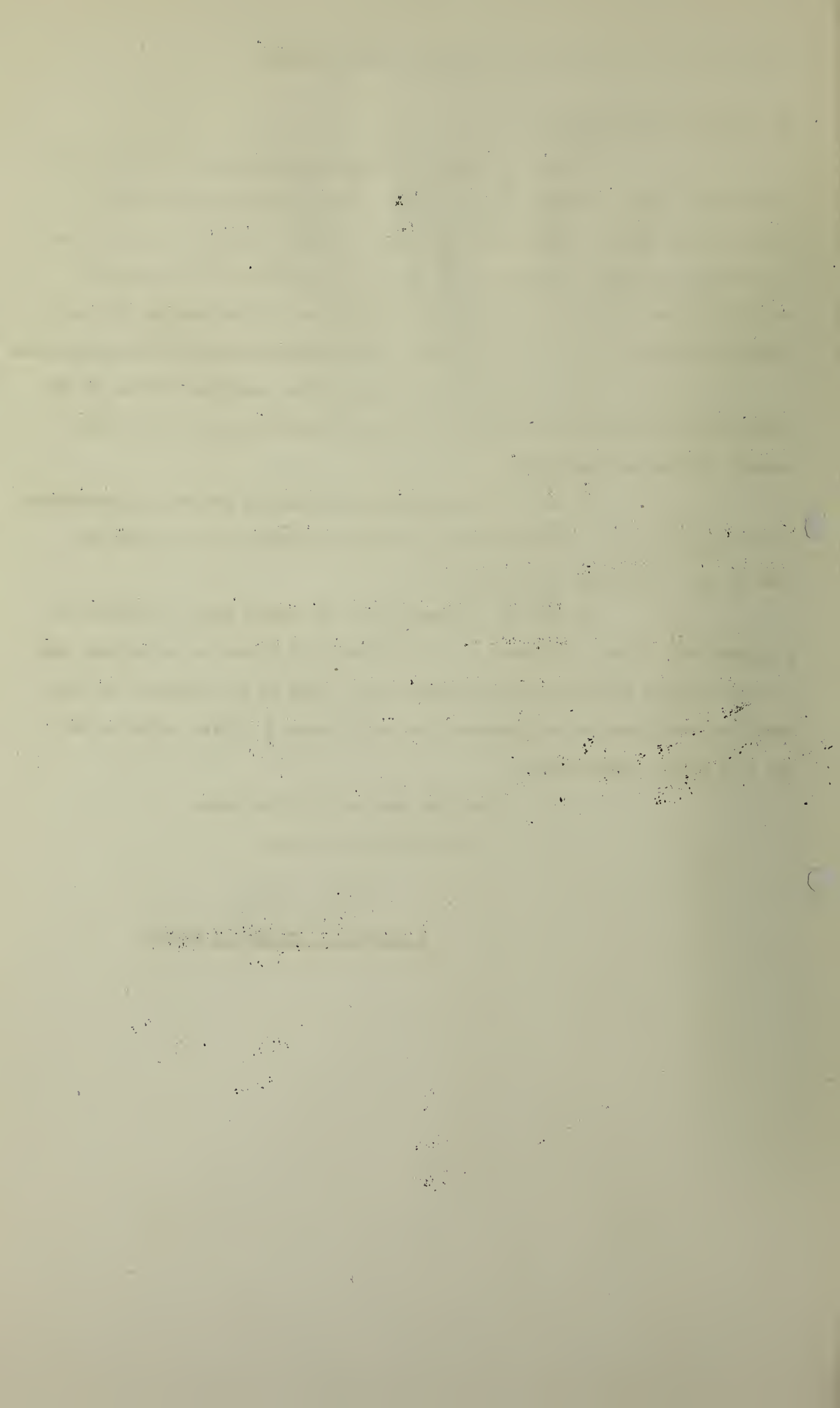
It will be recognised that the Annual Report could not be published without the assistance of my colleagues and I have to acknowledge such assistance, most willingly given, from Mr. Dykes Clerk to the Council, Mr. F.J. East, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer, and Mr. K.G. Mills, Rating Officer.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

William Hogg

Area Medical Officer Of Health



SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:-

The Urban District of Ledbury is a small country town in the South-east of the County of Hereford, lying on the western side of the Malvern Hills. It forms a centre for the surrounding fertile agricultural district. The town has a very long history and fortunately many old buildings have been preserved.

The town lies on the main line of the railway connecting Hereford and Birmingham and is a junction for the Newent and Gloucester line. The River Leadon flows by the town but is here a small shallow stream unsuitable for navigation and of no value for fishing. The prosperity of the town is linked with that of the surrounding Rural District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	499
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1008
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18868
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£74.7.9d.
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3667

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:-

<u>Live Birth</u> rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	14.7
<u>Still Birth</u> rate per 1,000 Total Births (Live & Still)	...	Nil
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population (crude).	...	11.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:-

		<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Total Births</u>
Heading No. 29	... Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Heading No. 30	... Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil

DEATHS RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	37.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	40.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births..	...	...	...	...	Nil

POPULATION:-

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population is 3,667, which compares with 3,408 for the year 1947 and 3,284 at the 1931 census. It will be seen that an increase in the population of the area has taken place. With the Registrar General's figure as a basis, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.63, and the gross density of persons per acre is 7.35. The estimated average number of inhabited houses per acre is 2.02. The natural increase of population, that is, the excess of births over deaths for the whole year is 12.

BIRTHS:-

The total number of live births occurring in the resident population was 54, there being 28 boys and 26 girls born during the year. The birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population is therefore 14.7, which compares with a figure of 21.1 per thousand in 1947, and the live birth rate of England and Wales for 1948 which is 17.9 per 1,000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births was 4 (2 boys and 2 girls) which is 7.4% of the total live births.

STILLBIRTHS:-

During the year, there were no stillbirths registered. The still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) was nil. This is very satisfactory and compares well with a still birth rate for 1947 of 27.0 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS:-

After deducting the number of deaths of non-residents who died within the area and adding the number of deaths of residents which occurred outside of the area, the total number of deaths of inhabitants which took place during the year is 42. This total is formed of 26 male and 16 female deaths.

The crude death rate was 11.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which compares with the death rate of England and Wales of 10.8 per 1,000 total population for 1948. It is not at present possible to give a corrected death rate and the difference between these rates is probably due to a significant degree to the age distribution of the resident population. In small towns, the younger section of the population tends to migrate to larger towns for various reasons.

The commonest cause of death was disease of the heart, this was attributed as the cause of death of 12 persons (6 males and 6 females), whilst disease of the arteries (Heading No: 18) and other circulatory diseases (Heading No: 20), was given as the cause of death of 6 persons in each group. There was some divergence between the number of male deaths (26) and the number of female deaths (16)

CANCER:-

The deaths from all forms of cancer amounted to 5 (2 males and 3 females) which gives a cancer death rate (all forms) of 1.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population which is a decrease in the corresponding rate (1.76) for the previous year.

INFANT MORTALITY:-

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year of age (1 male and 1 female) all were legitimate infants, and the death rate was 37.0 per 1,000 live births.

DEATHS DUE TO DIARRHOEA UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE:-

There were no deaths of children under two years of age attributed to diarrhoea.

DEATHS DUE TO NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

In no instance was death attributed to notifiable infectious disease. This experience was identical with that of the year 1947.

TUBERCULOSIS:-

This disease did not give rise to any deaths.

Infant Mortality:-

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year of age, (1 male and 1 female), all were legitimate infants, and the death rate was 57.0 per 1,000 live

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATHS, ACCORDING TO SEX AND MORTALITY RATES FROM VARIOUS CAUSES.

Reg. Gen's. Heading No.	Cause of Death.	Males	Females	Persons	Death rate per 1,000
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus in males. Cancer of Uterus in females.	1	-	1	0.3
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	1	3	4	1.1
18.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions.	3	3	6	1.6
19.	Heart Disease.	6	6	12	3.3
20.	Other diseases of the circulatory system.	4	2	6	1.6
21.	Pneumonia.	2	-	2	0.5
24.	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.5
27.	Other Digestive Diseases.	-	1	1	0.3
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury, and infantile diseases.	2	1	3	0.8
33.	Suicide.	1	-	1	0.3
35.	Other violent caused.	1	-	1	0.3
36.	All Other Causes.	3	-	3	0.8
	ALL CAUSES.	26	16	42	11.5

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:-

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Offices, Hereford, a unit of the Public Health Laboratory Service, continued to provide clinical laboratory facilities for the area. There can be no doubt that this service is of the greatest value to the inhabitants of the district and to the Public Health Department. The control of bacterial diseases continues to increase in complexity each year as a result of progress in research.

The following table shows the number and type of examinations carried out by the laboratory on behalf of the Public Health Department:-

SPECIMENS EXAMINED

Urine ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Swabs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Sputum ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water -Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Water-Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

It must be remembered that investigations are also carried out at the request of medical practitioner's in the area. These investigations are not included in the above table.

HOSPITAL FACILITIESGeneral:-

The Ledbury Cottage Hospital, situated in the town, is a cottage hospital of 12 beds, and is provided with a surgical theatre and an X-ray apparatus. It provides useful accommodation for both surgical and medical cases. This hospital vested in the Minister of Health under Section 6 of the National Health Act, 1946.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

When the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force the Council ceased to be responsible for the provision of hospital treatment for acute infectious disease.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES:-

A motor ambulance is maintained at the Court House Depot, by the Home ambulance Service Joint Committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. This functions as part of the ambulance service provided by the Local Health Authority.

CLINICS:-

Infant Welfare. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held every alternate Tuesday afternoon at the Church Room in Market Street. This provided by a voluntary Committee with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council.

School Clinic:-

A County Council School Clinic is held every Tuesday and Friday morning at 10 a.m. at the Court House premises for the treatment of minor ailments in school children.

Public Mortuary

No public mortuary and postmortem room is as yet provided but the Council has this provision in mind. Such accommodation would suffice for the Urban and the surrounding Rural District and it is possible that the adaptation of an existing building may be the best practical solution at the present time.

Water:-

The town is supplied chiefly by means of the Council's supply. There are still some private shallow wells in use. In 1938/39 a survey of these wells was completed and it was found that the water was not fit for potable purposes. The continued use of shallow wells of doubtful quality is not likely to promote the health of the inhabitants and should be remedied at an early date. The work of installation of the town supply where a well is found to be polluted has been commenced and will be continued. During the year 21 new water supplies were provided.

The Council's mains are divided into two systems, the high Pressure system supplying the higher part of the town and the low pressure system which supplies the remainder, but there are facilities for connection the high pressure to the low pressure system.

The water normally supplying the low pressure mains is derived from the Conygree Reservoir (1000,000 gallons capacity), this being fed from springs which originate in what appears to be Wenlock Limestone in Conygree Wood. These Springs are land springs with a yield subject to variations related to the local rainfall. The brickyard well is one of the most important of these. No pumping plant is installed at this supply, but chlorination treatment is given. As a result of tests, it was found that the quality of the Water on the low pressure system had become prone to periodic pollution which was not without danger to the public health. When this pollution took place, it would appear that the main protection of the health of the consumers rested upon the efficiency of the chlorination, but no great confidence can be placed upon this particular apparatus. If this source of supply is to be continued, efficient chlorination is essential. Inability to trace the source of this pollution renders the position very unsatisfactory. Discontinuance of the supply until it can be remedied and the installation of efficient chlorination appears to be the appropriate measure at the moment. During the drier summer months, this supply always requires augmentation from the high pressure supply. Throughout the year, the water supplies were adequate for the requirements of the area.

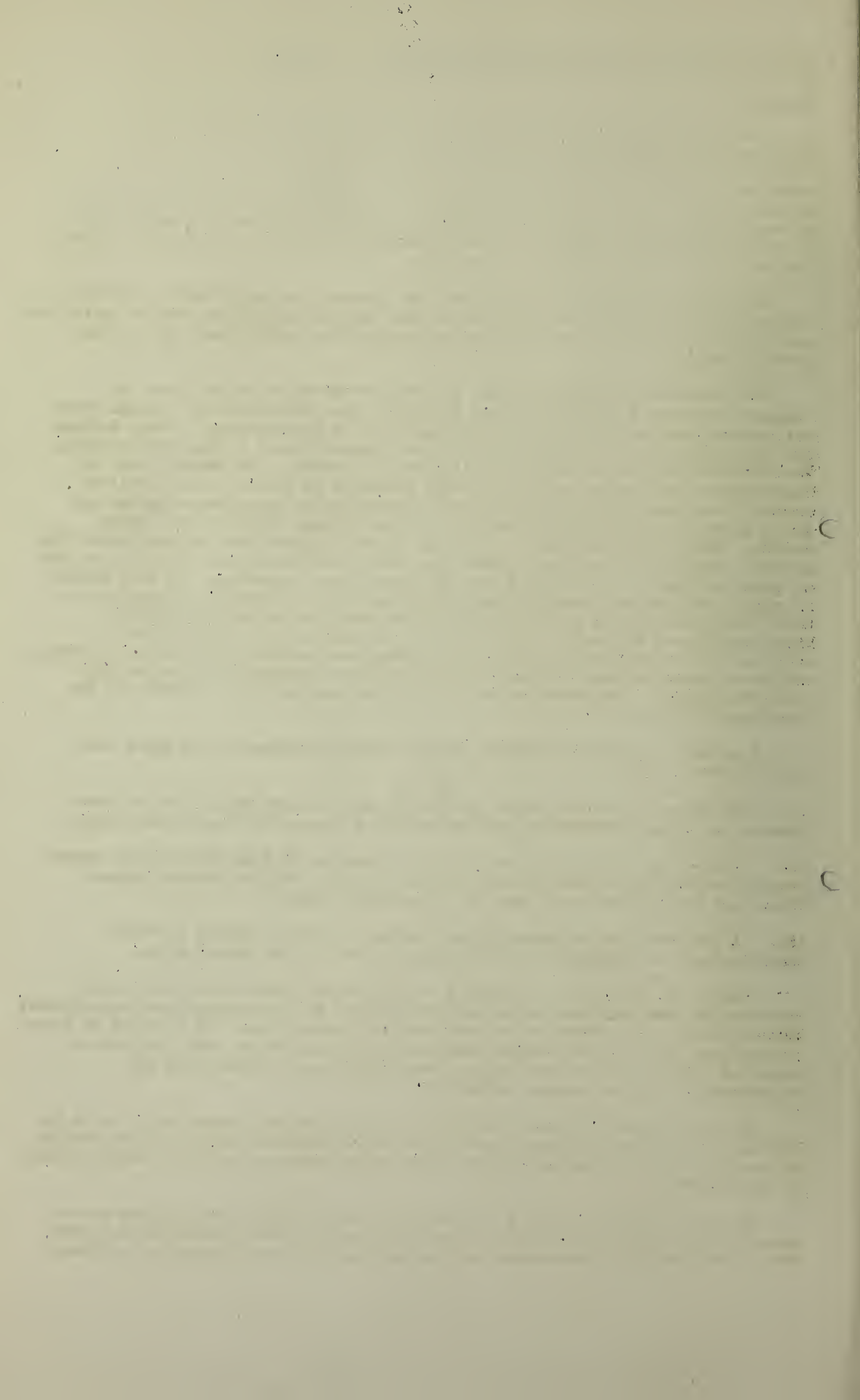
In order to improve the supply, the following extensions to the mains were carried out:-

- i. An extension main was laid from Bank Crescent, along Knapp Lane to Homend Crescent to enable the Swimming Bath to be filled direct from the Malvern supply.
- ii. A bye-pass main was constructed at the junction of Bank Crescent and Homend Crescent so that the higher portions of Bank Crescent and the Ledbury Grammar School can be supplied direct from the Malvern Bulk supply.
- iii. A main was laid in Woodleigh Road across the railway bridge to enable Woodleigh Road and Catleys Road to be supplied from the New Street Mains.

During the year, three samples of the town water before chlorination were submitted for chemical examination and five samples for bacteriological examination. Three samples of the treated water were sent for examination. As a result of these it was found that the low pressure system water was subject to what I regard as dangerous period pollution and that no great faith can be placed upon the chlorinator at the low pressure reservoir.

On one occasion, the water was found to be polluted by mineral oil, and it is difficult to see how this came about without being purposely mixed with the supply. It was dealt with by flushing out the mains and reservoir and fitting locking covers to the reservoir.

The water supplied to the town appears to have no appreciable solvent action upon lead or other metals. It is to be noted that all the water supplied to the town is obtained from underground sources and contains a fair amount of hardness.



Within the town, 740 dwellings are supplied from the mains by means of separate services, whilst 90 dwellings are supplied by stand pipes.

The average daily consumption of water per day was 76,000 gallons for all purpose or 20.7 gallons per head of the estimated resident population.

In addition to the supply provided in the Urban District, 22 dwellings in the adjacent Rural District are given supplies from the Urban District mains. These are located in Ledbury Rural Parish (20 dwellings), and Parish (2) dwellings and addition a few trade supplies are provided.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:-

The town has a system of public sewers which receives the drainage of almost the whole of the town. The system must be in some parts quite as old as the town and the exact course and condition of the sewers are probably not known, nevertheless the system functions fairly satisfactorily.

The sewers take both storm water and sewage and connect partly to a series of crude settlement tanks and partly to the sewage disposal works. These works are very old and are completely inadequate for the proper treatment of the present day quantity of sewage. As a result, the effluent passing from the works into the River Leadon causes deoxygenation of the stream in water. With a view to secure improvement, the Council instructed consulting engineers to prepare a new scheme for sewage disposal in conjunction with an industrial undertaking in the vicinity. At the close of the year, the preparation of this scheme had not been completed.

No new private or public sewers were constructed during the year, but a length of private sewer was relaid in Lower Road.

However, disused irrigation channels at the existing sewage purification works were cleaned and again brought into use so as to rest and relieve the channels which have been in continuous use for several years with inadequate attention.

During the year, 9 new drains were constructed, of those, 7 were in connection with dwelling houses. Ten drain tests were made. Two existing drains were reconstructed, four drains were repaired and two stopped drains were cleared.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:-

Public conveniences are provided in the centre of the town by the Council. These are well sited and maintained in a good state with some difficulty. Damage and mutilation of the premises is a problem of some significance. Fifty inspections of these premises were made during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:-

The River Leadon, a tributary of the River Severn, forms part of the western boundary of the Urban District. Here, the Leadon is a small stream which tends to produce flooding of its banks in the winter months. Such floods frequently involve the land used for irrigation at the existing sewage disposal works.

The condition of the river below the town is unsatisfactory. It is frequently discoloured, and the bed covered with black deposit, fungal growths are common and the stream appears to be devoid of life. In other words, the river is polluted and will remain so until proper sewage disposal works are constructed to deal adequately with the effluents it receives in this neighbourhood.

Evidence of pollution can be seen for a few miles below the town, and in the drier months of the year when the flow is small, the appearance of the stream is objectionable.

Recent cleaning of the course of the River Leadon has somewhat improved the flow, but this has made little difference in the condition of the water.

Whilst the settlement tanks and irrigation channels of the Urban district

Councils sewage disposal works were cleaned out during the year, this produced little material change in the state of the river.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION:-

About half of the dwellings in the town are provided with efficient water closets, the remaining dwellings being provided with slop closets. These latter are not entirely satisfactory, and conversion is one of the tasks of the future. No closet conversions were secured during the year, but 19 new water closets were provided. There do not appear to be any privies or pail closets in use within the area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:-

There is a weekly system of collection for domestic refuse throughout the district. The Council obtained delivery of a new refuse collection vehicle, of a modern pattern, which resulted in an improvement in the methods of collection of trade refuse. The disposal of the collected domestic refuse is by means of tipping on flat ground and as there is always a lack of earth for covering purposes, it is not possible to introduce a fully controlled system of disposal.

Three cesspools were cleansed by the Council at the cost of the occupiers.

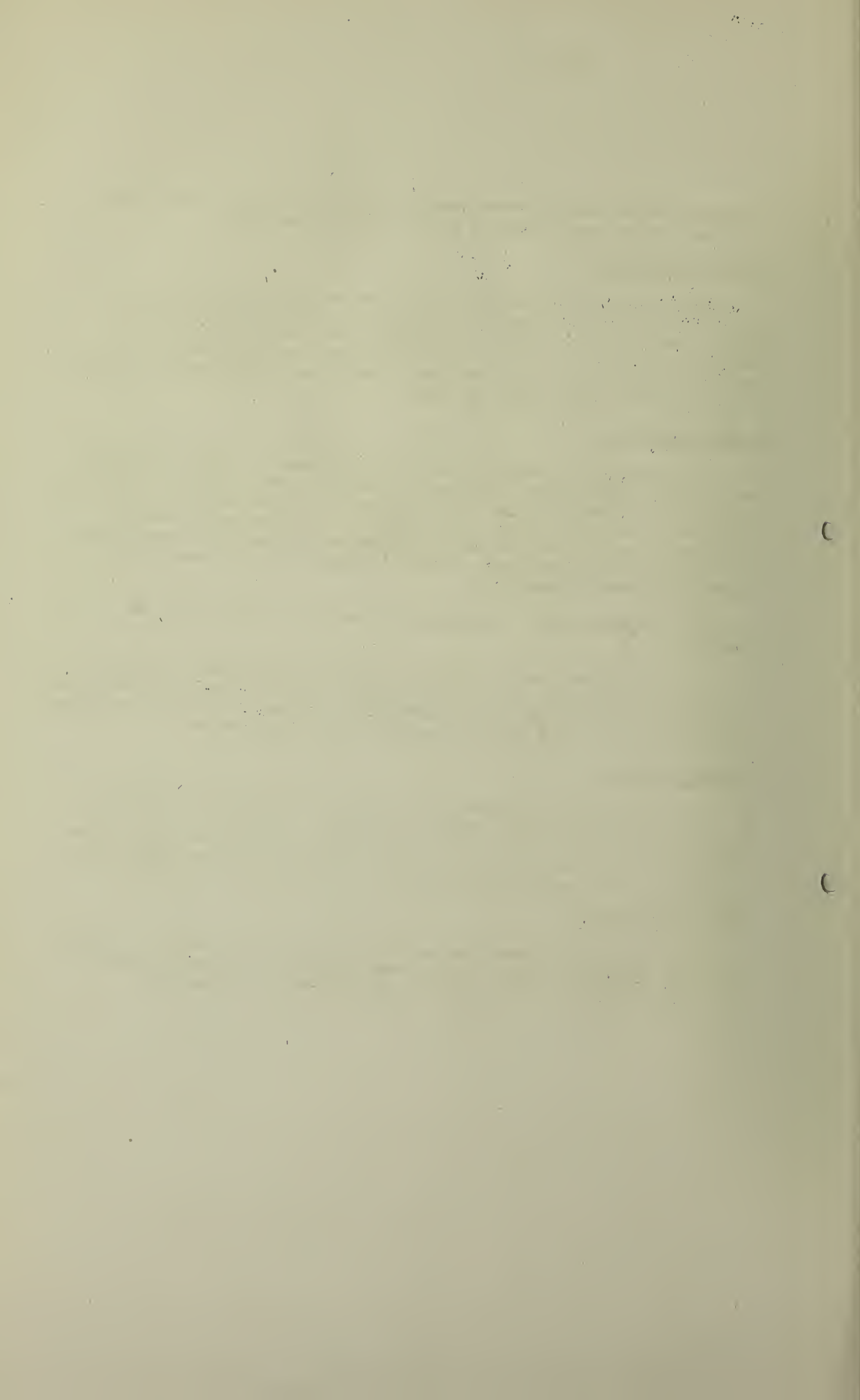
The Council gave some attention to securing the provision of proper sanitary dustbins by the occupiers and owners, so as to improve the collection of domestic refuse and diminish nuisance from the use of unsuitable containers for such purpose. This action resulted in some improvement.

SWIMMING BATHS:-

The small open air swimming bath owned by the Council, was open to the public during the summer months on payment. The bath water is taken from the town mains and the bath is emptied and refilled once weekly. No purification plant is provided but hand treatment of the water with Chlorox is carried out to maintain the water in as clean a state as possible.

SHOPS AND OFFICES:-

As a result of informal action under the Shops Act 1934, the occupier of a shop, provided adequate sanitary accomodation and separate closet accomodation for members of each sex, was secured in another shop.



SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:-

I am indebted to Mr. F.J. East, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections:-

Ashbins & Ashpits	...	...	...	...	200
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	4
Common Lodging Houses..	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds and Dairies ..	...	...	...	...	1
Drainage	...	...	...	...	5
Drain Tests ..	...	...	...	...	10
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	4
Factories without Mechanical Power.	...	...	...	...	5
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	9
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	...	...	...	5
Public Conveniences. ..	...	...	...	...	50
Rats and Mice Act	...	...	...	...	4
Shops (Shops Act 1934)	...	...	...	...	3
Swimming Baths and Pools ..	...	...	...	...	20
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	25
Water supply ..	...	...	...	...	25
Housing (Consolidated Regulations 1934 )	...	...	...	...	48
Housing (Other)	...	...	...	...	48

Notices Issued.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	3
Statutory reHousing.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory under Other Acts	...	...	...	...	...	122

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Ashbins Provided	...	...	...	...	100
Drains and Gullies Cleared..	...	...	...	...	2
Drains Repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Drains Reconstructed..	...	...	...	...	2
New Drains Provided...	...	...	...	...	-
Pail Closets Converted to Water Closets.	...	...	...	...	3
New sinks Provided	...	...	...	...	5
Water supplies Provided	...	...	...	...	21
Paving Repaired	...	...	...	...	6
New Ashbins Provided..	...	...	...	...	100
Defective Floors Repaired...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Brickwork Repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Filty and Verminous Premises Cleansed...	...	...	...	...	2
Filthy and Verminous Persons Cleansed...	...	...	...	...	-
Miscellaneous Defects Remedied	...	...	...	...	5

Camping Sites:-

No sites were used for camping purposed during the year and no licences for camping were granted by the Local Authority.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No infestations of dwellings by bed bugs came to the notice of the Department during the year. Disinfestation of the belongings of tenants before removal to Council Houses was not required.

Disposal of the Dead:-

b No burials were carried out by the Local Authority during the year under powers granted by Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Welfare of the Aged and Infirm:- Section 47, National Assistance Act 1948.

The necessity for action by the Council under powers granted by this section did not arise during the year.

Factories Act 1937:-

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year was 30, whilst the number without mechanical power so registered was 13.

In the course of the year, nine inspections were made, and four defects were found. Three contraventions related to sanitary conveniences viz:- absence of separate accommodation for members of each sex, ii. insufficient sanitary accommodation. Lack of cleanliness was found in a bakehouse. At the end of the year, these defects had been remedied with a single exception.

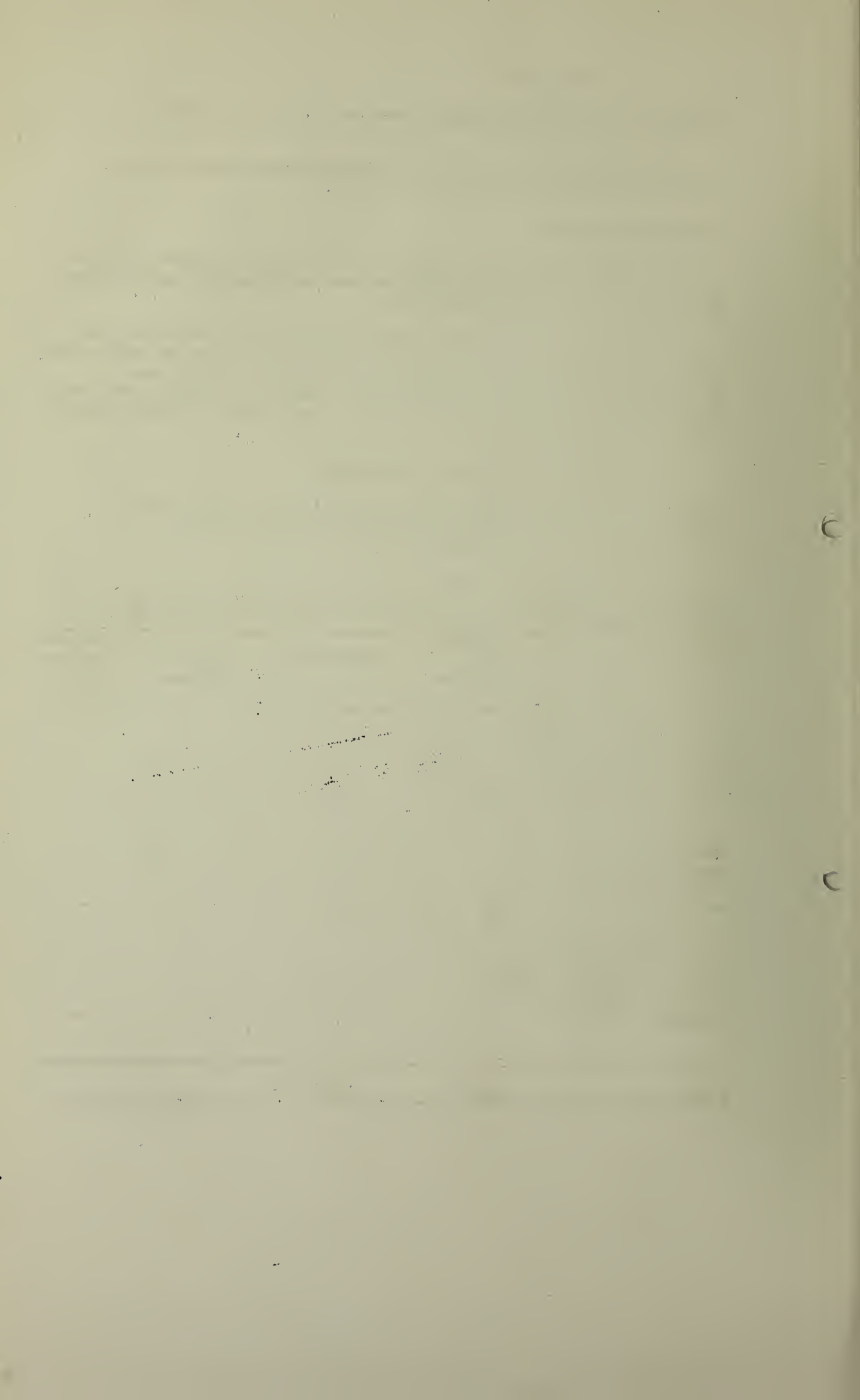
FACTORY FORM 572. (REVISED)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1948 for the Urban District of Ledbury in the County of Herefordshire.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec- uted.
1. Factories in which Sections, 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	13	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in No. 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	29	11	-	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	1	-	-	-
Totals	43	13	-	-



2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars.	Found	Remediced	Referred by H.M. Inspector.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (°F)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
a. Insufficient...	1	1	-	-
b. Unsanitary or Defective	1	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to (network))	-	-	-	-
total	4	3	-	-



Throughout the year, the demand for housing accommodation continued to be far in excess of that available and little progress was made towards satisfying the demand. The Council's building progress was confined to the completion of the interim development of the Longacre Estate, seven dwellings being completed during the year. No new Council houses were in course of erection at the close of the year and private enterprise made no contribution to the housing needs of the area.

Towards the end of the year, the Council made efforts to secure control of a portion of the former prisoner of war camp, near the Gloucester Road, with the intention of converting a number of the buildings into temporary houses. This proposal was attractive as the usual services were installed on the site, and the buildings could be readily adapted for temporary dwellings. The Camp site had the advantage of being conveniently situated.

At the end of the year the number of occupied Council houses was 139, this number does not include 13 dwellings originally erected by the Council and occupied by tenant purchasers.

No dwellings were erected or were under construction before the end of the year by private owners.

The number of applications for housing accommodation before the Council and still regarded as being genuine live applications remained high at some 200. The year can be regarded as one of meagre progress towards satisfying the housing need of the area. This lack of progress was due to factors beyond the control of the Council.

At the beginning of the year, there were 28 dwellings known to be overcrowded, and in seven of these, action by the Council secured abatement of the overcrowding. No new instances of overcrowded dwellings came to the notice of the Department, so that the number of overcrowded dwellings at the end of the year was 21. These figures suggest that some progress was made in abating the problem of the overcrowded dwelling, and the position should significantly improve with the resumption of house building by the Council.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Building Acts)	...	...	...	...	48
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	60
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	...	...	...	48
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	60
		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	Nil
		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	40

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	18
---	-----	-----	-----	----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwelling -houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | Nil |
| (b) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.-- | |
| | 1. By owners | Nil |
| | 11. By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | 22 |
| (b) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | 21 |
| | 1. By owners | 21 |
| | 11. By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (b) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (b) | Number of separate tenement or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | Nil |

HOUSING ACT, 1936 PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... | 21 |
| (b) | Number of families dwelling therein | 30 |
| (c) | Number of persons dwelling therein | 117 |
| (d) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year .. | Nil |
| (a) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.. | 7 |
| (b) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | 35 |

Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

... ..

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:-

The number of registrations under Article 6, of the Milk and dairies Order, 1926, remained unchanged.

The sale and distribution of milk within the area during the year was satisfactory. No cases of disease occurred in which infected milk was suspected as being the cause of infection. One inspection of registered premises were made.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the area and no licences for the sale of pasteurised milk were issued by the Local Authority during the year.

No samples of milk were submitted by the Department for test for cleanliness or pathological bacteria.

It would appear that the supervision of the production and sale of safe milk will be transferred at some future date, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. As this work absorbs only a very small fraction of the Sanitary Inspectors time, it will make no difference to the work of the Council's Officers.

Ice-Cream.

This food is a milk product and the same care is required to be used for its preparation and storage as is necessary in the production of milk.

One manufacturer within the area is registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of ice cream, and five premises are registered for its storage and sale. During the year, five inspections of registered premises were made and no action was necessary with regard to these premises. As the number of registrations showed an increase on the previous year, it would seem that the sale of this food had increased.

Water Cress:-

A small sale of this foodstuff takes place during the season, but no action was necessary by the Department. This plant grows in a number of places adjacent to the town and is no doubt gathered and consumed but no ill effects appear to have been experienced. The cress supplied by green grocers in the town is purchased from wholesalers or recognised local sources.

Shell-Fish:-

The sale of Shell Fish in the town is insignificant at the present time and no action was necessary.

Meat:-

All fresh meat sold within the town is obtained from the City Abattoir at Hereford, and as a result of inspection carried out there, unsound meat is not brought into the area. Nevertheless, meat exposed or intended for sale is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and one sheep carcass was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered.

There are no slaughterhouses within the town used for regular slaughtering, but very occasionally one former slaughterhouse is used for emergency slaughter.

In view of the fact that centralised slaughtering has been experienced for so long, and the meat trade has become familiar with it. I think it is unlikely that small individual slaughterhouses will again come into use. Centralised slaughtering seems to be more satisfactory from the hygienic standpoint.

FOOD POISONING:-

No notifications of food poisoning or suspected food poisoning were received during the year.

UNSOUND FOOD:-

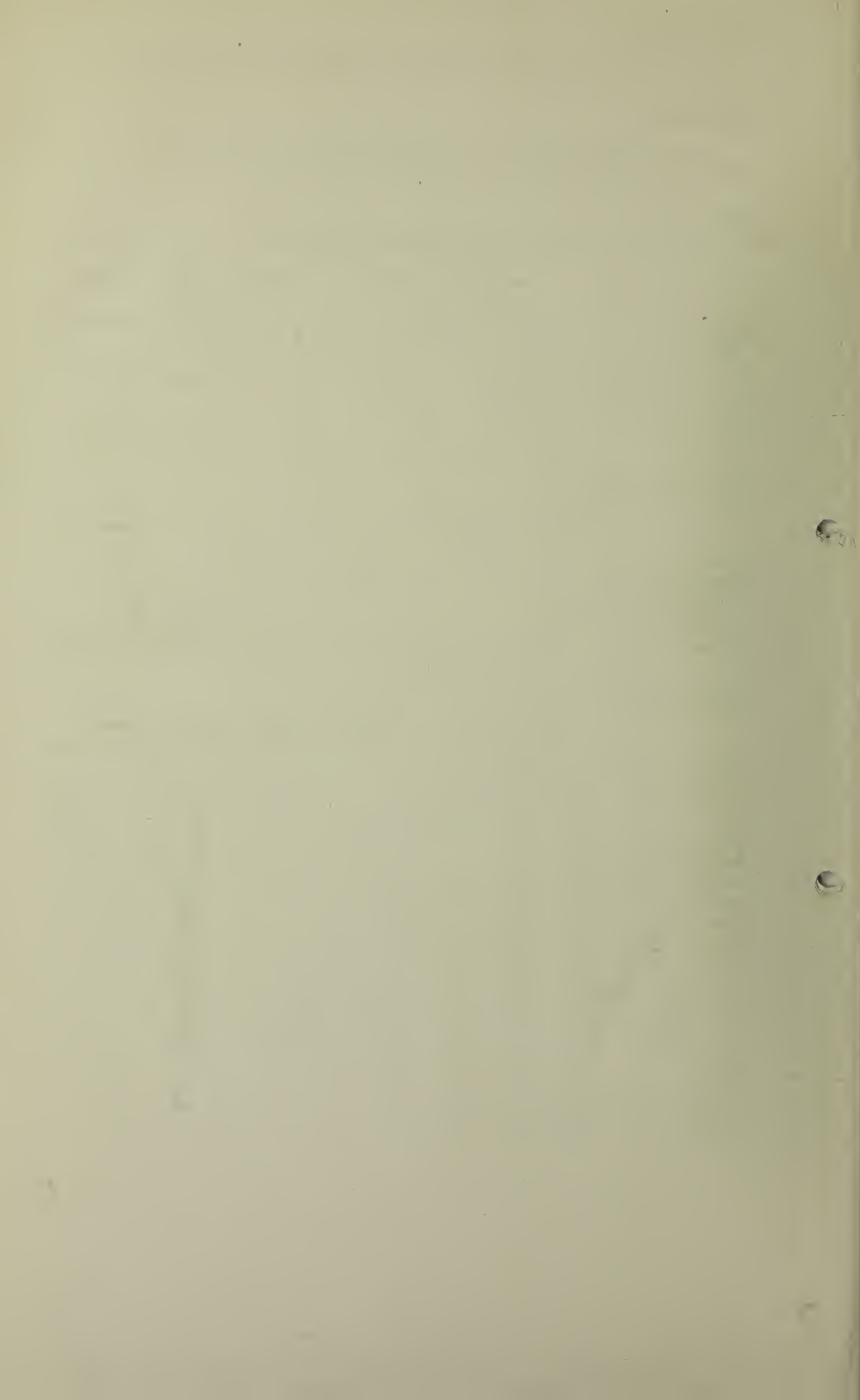
The following table shows the variety of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

MEAT:-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.				
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs
Number Killed if Known.				1
Number Inspected.				1
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole Carcases condemned.				1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.				100

UNSOUND FOOD:-

	Cans.	quarts.	lbs.	Pints.
Tomatoes		1	6	
Prunes			15	
Fish	3	1	12	
Biscuits			11	
Padding Mixture			21	
Bitter		2	20	
Dates			5 1/2	
Preserves			16 3/4	
Canned Fruit.			20	
" " vegetables	1		0 1/4	
" " fish			17 7/8	
" " Meat Products.			16 3/4	
" " Soup			13	
" " Fruit Juices.			9 3/4	
" " Milk		1.	11 1/2	
Sauce			2	
Treacle			2	
Coffee Extract			1 1/2	
Cordials				3



SECTION F.- THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:-

The population of the area continued to show remarkable freedom from infectious disease. Indeed the experience of 1948, was slightly better than that of the previous year, for measles and whooping cough were the only infectious diseases notified and these, with a single exception were limited to the first quarter of the year. Altogether there were 14 notifications, three respecting measles. The patients were all children under the age of ten years.

The efficiency of notification is good and I am satisfied that the notifications accurately represent the incidence of infectious disease. Whilst this freedom from common infections is very satisfying, I do not think that it can be maintained over a long period.

Disease.	under 1	1-2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Total
Measles.	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	3	1	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	11
Totals		3	1	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	14

Tuberculosis:-

At the beginning of the year, there were 27 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 26 being in respect of pulmonary disease, and 1 of other forms of the disease. During the year, five cases were added to the register, four of these being cases of pulmonary disease, of which three were new cases.

Six names were removed from the register of pulmonary cases during the year, so that at the close of the year, 26 cases remained on the register, (24 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary)

There were no deaths attributed to any form of tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1948

AGE	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALL AGES	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

